GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2947
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
UNIGAUGE POLICY
Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced unigauge policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2947 BY SHRI M. SHIVANNA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.12.2008 REGARDING UNIGAUGE POLICY.

(a) to (c): Policy for Project Unigauge taken up in 1992 to convert selected routes for conversion into broad gauge is as under:

(i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative BG routes obviating the need for Doubling of existing BG lines on these routes.

(ii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.

(iii) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.

(iv) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

(v) To carry out the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting.

As on 01.04.1992, Indian Railways had a network of 27349 Km of Meter Gauge (MG)/ Narrow Gauge (NG) railway lines and 14838 Km of railway lines have been converted into broad gauge upto 31.03.2008. As per Plan projections, 10,000 Km of gauge conversion is to be done during 11th Five Year Plan period.